

Welcome to NGN's Spring 2014 Newsletter: There's Lots to Tell You

Dear NGN Supporter,

We thought that last year couldn't get more demanding. Well, we were wrong. At the end of 2013, a few weeks before Christmas, we got a call: 18 children were being kept in terrible conditions and needed NGN's help. They had no sanitation, little water and hardly any food to eat. One of the children was suffering terribly from malnutrition and could barely leave his bed. NGN rescued all 18 children. They are now on the road to recovery and NGN is actively searching for their families.

These 18 children, and all of the children rescued before them, are housed at a safe home in the hills above Kathmandu where NGN provides love, care, nutritious meals, education and stability. With the home so full of joyful noise and activity, we thought it would be a good time to take some photos and show you all what life is like in NGN's Karnali Home.

Last month, on March 11, NGN held its first ever "Evening in Kathmandu Gala" at the beautiful Wythe Hotel in Brooklyn, New York. It was a festive night hosted by Nate Berkus and our amazing host committee. There were prayer flags at the entrance and welcoming khatas (ceremonial scarves) were presented to each guest as they entered. The attendees at the event were all there for the same reason: to help make a difference to the lives of displaced and trafficked children of Nepal being kept in horrific conditions, separated from their families, exploited and abused. It was a huge success and there is already talk of when NGN will host the next Gala!

Finally, I'm really happy to update you on Jagrit, a young man I have written about in the past who remains one of the brightest people I know. Read more to learn about how his story has developed over the years.

We hope that you enjoy reading about all of our work over the fall and winter. Please continue to donate and inspire others to do so.

Together, we can fight child trafficking in Nepal!



Conor Grennan,
President
Next Generation Nepal



Conor receiving an Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award from His Holiness the Dalai Lama for NGN's work.

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18 Children Walk to Freedom

In December 2013, with little preparation or notice, NGN was asked to help with the rescue of 18 malnourished, sick children from a squalid "orphanage" near Kathmandu. They had been kept in one room, with one toilet that was never cleaned, provided very little food and kept away from their families. One of the children, we were told, was so sick he couldn't stand. We knew we had to act quickly.

On November 20, our expert team joined government officials and police to rescue these 18 children. They were confused, dirty, hungry and afraid. Daman, a 13 year old who weighed under 40 lbs. could barely walk and was carried to safety and then taken straight to the hospital. Another child was only 2 years old.

NGN teams were hindered by curfews and IED explosions making it very difficult to be always by Daman's side while he was in the hospital. We did manage to have one staff with him most of the time so that he would feel safe. Within a few days, we started to see improvements in Daman's health. There were, however, clear signs of trauma. Not long after, another child Danvir experienced a series of seizures. He was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with neurocysticercosis, a parasite contracted through unsanitary food and water. His recovery will be long and slow, but he now has the medication he needs.

It took some time for the NGN transitional home to ring with the sound of children's games, chatter and laughter, but it finally did with some help from the bigger kids on the NGN scholarship program and some of the former Little Princes residents who would help provide a few hours of tutoring and playtime each day.

Now it was time to begin the search for families. The reintegration team worked tirelessly to get as much information about the children's families as they could find - from records at local government offices, from leads and clues given to them by the community local to the old orphanage and from the children themselves.

Since then, after 14 search missions, many false leads and random acquaintances that led to connections, NGN now has information on 17 of the families of these children. Two are already back home in their villages. Locating the family of 2 year old Jishnu will remain a challenge, but we continue to work with every lead we have to bring him home.



None of this would have been possible without our incredibly dedicated staff and the support of our donors who raised enough in December and January to support these 18 children for a year. We look forward to updating NGN supporters on the children's progress over the coming months.

**Help NGN
Reconnect
Trafficked
Children with
Their Families**

DONATE

**There is no
minimum or
maximum donation
- every dollar helps!**

Next Generation Nepal is a registered 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in the State of New York.

All donations are tax deductible.

Photo Journey of a Day in NGN's Karnali Home

NGN runs a transitional home in the hills around Kathmandu, where the air is fresh and the views are beautiful. The home is a happy one. Karnali Home, named after the region where many of the trafficked children hail from, is the safe haven where NGN's children stay when first rescued. It is where they receive an education and counseling, and from where they once again are free to play and laugh and to be children. It is from here that we begin the children's assessments, and the searching begins with the hope of finding their families as soon as possible.



The day begins here...



The Walk to School



Shopping for Vegetables



Reintegration Assessment



NGN's Classroom



School Recess



Tea Time



Washing Up



Coming Home From School



After School Activities



Hello from Kathmandu!



Good Night!

Jagrit Aims High

Jagrit was 6 years old when he was taken by a family friend away from a civil war and poverty in Humla in northwest Nepal to the capital city of Kathmandu in hopes of gaining an education.

He was passed from children's home to children's home with little of the education his family was promised. He found himself in one organization's orphanage which he describes as "unexplainable through words, it was newly opened and there was no system of management, misuse of budgets and those things were attached to our lives." Soon after he was moved to another organization where he received an education, care and shelter.

At 16, with high scores in his school leaving exams, he faced a quandary. "I just had two options at the time. The first option was to be helped by another organization or to go back to my village in Humla." He thought about it carefully. "To have a job we need to have a higher education or have a relative in a powerful position in local politics. My parents are farmers in Humla - the latter was not an option for me. So, I met with Julien and Samjyor at NGN and they had a deep understanding of my needs. After this meeting they didn't just give me a positive response to my request for some support to complete my education, they fulfilled it." Jagrit could further his studies and gain a vocational qualification to help him find employment due to the NGN Scholarship Program.



"Now my life is changing in a direction towards hope and success for the future. I am studying to be a lab technician, and all sorts of needs [food, a student home, clothes, pocket money, career mentoring, life skills, etc.], which are important for life, I am getting. And, I really appreciate having the luck to be supported by NGN."

Jagrit is a wonderful, thoughtful young man who is passionate about being an independent self-sufficient adult. His first encounter with NGN was with co-founders Conor Grennan and Farid Ait Mansour when he was being supported by the Umbrella Foundation. The founders of the Umbrella Foundation provided great support to Farid and Conor while they worked at Little Princes in Godawari, Nepal, and some of Jagrit's story features in Conor's book "Little Princes: Bringing Home the Lost Children of Nepal."

Creating a SeaChange

NGN is delighted to have influenced four diplomatic missions in Nepal to change their Travel Information & Advisory to their citizens regarding the hazards of volunteering in Nepali orphanages.

The U.S., British, French and Swiss Embassies in Nepal now provide advice to

citizens of their countries to do thorough research before volunteering in children's homes and orphanages in Nepal. Many children in these homes have been deliberately displaced from their families and communities into what can be profit-making, exploitative businesses. Traffickers often deliberately place children in orphanages, using them as profit-making tools to attract donations from well-intentioned foreign tourists. Volunteers believe they are helping genuine orphans or destitute children, while unwittingly contributing to child trafficking. Many of the children's families have been tricked into believing that their children were being sent to high-quality boarding schools, when in fact they are in the hands of profit-making traffickers.

Last year NGN helped to rescue 26 children from exploitative children homes where they were kept in unacceptable conditions. NGN has found the families of all but one of these children to date. Therefore, NGN welcomes these changes in diplomatic travel advice which we hope will contribute to bringing an end to child trafficking in Nepal.

Next Generation Nepal Highlights

NGN believes very strongly in what we do to help Nepal's lost children, and we hope that you believe in us and continue to provide support for NGN's work. Below are NGN's highlights as on March 31, 2014



Help Us Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal

There are still thousands of children experiencing exploitation in Nepal. Most of these children are likely to have been trafficked and may be being abused. Our goal is to bring them all home!

Should you wish to make a donation or organize a fundraiser in your community or workplace, we have created a shopping list below that can help you. Your gift will help bring an end to child exploitation.

How your donations can help:

\$53 pays for one child's immediate medical treatment post-rescue.

\$434 pays to search for the family of a trafficked child in remote locations of Nepal.

\$456 pays for one child to go to school locally for one year.

\$1327 pays for one child to be fed and cared for in NGN's transitional home for one year, while searching for their families.



A Night in Kathmandu: NGN's First Gala

It's not every day you can go to Nepal and experience the work of NGN on the ground in Kathmandu and beyond. So, for one night only, we decided to bring Kathmandu to New York City for our very first fundraising gala. All 150 people had a great night with our MC Nate Berkus, DJ Mad Marj and the U.S. NGN team. We raised an incredible \$150,000 for NGN's continuing work in Nepal, including a donation from Elsa and David Brule who matched every donation pledged that night.



Elsa & David Brule, Liz & Conor Grennan, Nate Berkus

A few of the friends who joined us at the Gala wanted to share their thoughts on the event:

"It was very moving to see Conor and Anna after reading and hearing so much about them. They are so inspirational. What a special evening that captured the spirit with which Next Generation Nepal operates."

"I think there was a spirit of good will among everyone who was there. The shared mission to protect children brought a common ground and made socializing easy and fun."

"Furthermore, it's not a sad story rather one of jubilation. Strength of conviction can triumph. Everyone rallied with honor and respect to endorse what began when Conor did not walk away from a wrong that needed to be made right. And everyone no longer felt helpless, but rather empowered, to help NGN continue the work with efficiency, expertise and valuable momentum."

Help Spread the Word

If you are inspired by the work of NGN and what you read here please feel free to forward this newsletter or the NGN Facebook page to a friend. We are always so encouraged by the people who get in touch and want to find out more. The more people who know about child trafficking and exploitation in Nepal, the sooner we can put a stop to it.

www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal

Thank You, NGN Supporters!

Finally, a big, heartfelt "thank you" from all of us at NGN to our supporters and donors! It has been an incredible, challenging and fulfilling six months. Children have been rescued and are finding their moms and dads again.

Their success is your success, because your donations make this happen!

THANK YOU!!!

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